

that affects all 50 States. Our two parties used to agree on the need to reliably invest in infrastructure. We should be able to do that again. President Biden is hosting bipartisan discussions about his proposal at the White House today and will continue to bring lawmakers and stakeholders together to find common ground. I know that the administration is going to talk to Members from both sides of the aisle to incorporate their ideas.

Every day now, millions of Americans are getting the vaccine—4 million on 1 day over the weekend—and we are closer than ever to defeating the COVID-19 pandemic. The worst of COVID-19 is, hopefully, in the rear view mirror. The streets of New York City, this weekend as I wandered about, were more alive than I have seen them in months. Soon we will have an opportunity to work together to strengthen our recovery and create the jobs of the future. A big, bold investment in our Nation's infrastructure is just the way to do it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

PERMITTING THE REMAINS OF THE LATE UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE OFFICER WILLIAM F. EVANS TO LIE IN HONOR IN THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 27, which was received today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 27) permitting the remains of the late United States Capitol Police Officer William F. Evans to lie in honor in the rotunda of the Capitol.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 27) was agreed to.

DIRECTING THE ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL TO TRANSFER THE CATAFALQUE SITUATED IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER TO THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL FOR USE IN CONNECTION WITH SERVICES CONDUCTED FOR UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE OFFICER WILLIAM F. EVANS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unani-

mous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 28, which was received today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 28) directing the Architect of the Capitol to transfer the catafalque situated in the Capitol Visitor Center to the rotunda of the Capitol for use in connection with services conducted for United States Capitol Police Officer William F. Evans.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 28) was agreed to.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I have one short issue and another issue of about 10 minutes.

Over the Easter break, I held a Q&A in 24 counties to hear what was on the minds of Iowans. It was my constituents' agenda, not my agenda, that we discussed. From my cattle market transparency bill to Second Amendment issues, COVID-19 vaccines, and the crisis at the southern border, Iowans are always up to date on the issues most important to them.

One prominent question: Why can't you guys in the Senate get along? In other words, "Why not more bipartisanship?" is a constant question I get.

Iowans want Congress to work in a bipartisan way to enhance our Nation's infrastructure through increased funding for roads, bridges, highways, waterways, and rural broadband, among many other infrastructure issues.

Unfortunately, what I have heard so far about President Biden's plan is that it is everything but the kitchen sink and not enough focus on just the big, big issue and the long-term issue of infrastructure.

Iowans expect us to work in a bipartisan way, and I hope Democrats will agree to work together with us, unlike the passage of the \$1.9 trillion bill.

SECTION 230 OF THE COMMUNICATIONS ACT

I recently spoke on the Senate floor about the important issue of free speech. Today, I would like to speak on the power of Big Tech to censor free speech.

It has been 25 years since section 230 of the Communications Act was signed into law. This law grants wide-sweep-

ing immunity to interactive computer services that host third-party content.

The goal of section 230 at the time was laudable. The internet was in its infancy, and content being posted to message boards by third parties was leading to litigation that threatened the spread of free speech and expression. Section 230 was enacted to encourage free speech, while giving companies the ability to remove illegal and obscene materials.

Section 230 and the legal shield it offers helped to enable the internet to grow into what we know this very day. However, interactive computer services are no longer struggling companies but some of the largest corporations in the world today. Would you believe that when section 230 was signed into law, the words "Google," "Facebook," "Twitter," and "YouTube" did not even exist as words or companies? Today, they are giant, dominant tech companies.

Many argue that these private companies have their own terms of service and are able to enforce them as they wish and also that they are not covered under the First Amendment. Yet, these platforms are now the new public square, where it is important that all voices and viewpoints are able to be heard.

With the immunities that these companies have and the importance of dialogue on their platforms, arguably they are in effect state actors, and therefore First Amendment protections should apply to user-generated content.

The size and power of these companies also contribute to their ability to censor speech and undermine the First Amendment. Google controls 87 percent of search, Facebook has 2.8 billion monthly active users, 500 million tweets are sent on Twitter each day, and over 1 billion hours of videos are watched on YouTube every day.

When a campaign has monopoly power, it no longer is constrained by normal market forces. If these platforms had competitors, consumers could choose alternatives when they disagree with the terms of service or moderation policies. However, right now, the only choice consumers have is to take it or leave it.

Section 230 appears to compound this problem. Big Tech has no competitors and is immune from liability. These companies are unaccountable to their customers, the courts, and the government. If not for their monopoly power and section 230 immunity, these companies might not be involved in the actions and the censorship we see today. These platforms are where people communicate online, and there are no real alternatives.

This innovation has democratized our political system. I think that is good. Yet, there are people who don't like that every person is able to get their views out, and they want to interfere with and censor those views. We cannot stand for this cancel culture and the interference with free speech.

Entrepreneurs want to challenge these big tech companies. Unfortunately, the system is rigged against the little-guy startup. These companies can remove your website from the internet, delete your app from the app store, and permanently ban you from their platforms. These companies can also remove competitors or those they disagree with, largely with no recourse.

Millions of small business owners use tech platforms to operate their business. It has been a big boost to our economy over the last 25 years. Many business owners have been censored, banned, and demonetized. This can be done without warning, no explanation whatsoever, and many times without any meaningful due process.

Our antitrust regulators need to take a harder look at the actions of Big Tech. I recently introduced legislation with Senator KLOBUCHAR to increase resources for FTC and DOJ antitrust enforcement. This legislation would provide an immediate boost to these Agencies' effective competition responsibilities.

Right now, there are essentially five companies within just the United States that determine what can and cannot be viewed by the American public. It is becoming increasingly clear that these companies are more beholden to cancel culture and not to the free speech principles that this country was founded upon.

When I talk about what these Agencies—the FTC and the DOJ—ought to be doing, I am not excluding anything that this Congress ought to be doing beyond what these Agencies have a responsibility to do.

So I go back to a famous quote by Justice Brandeis:

If there be time to expose through discussion the falsehoods and fallacies, to avert the evil by the processes of education, the remedy to be applied is more speech, not enforced silence.

It is time that we examine the need for section 230 immunity—that is beyond what we expect the DOJ and FTC to do—examine the need for section 230 immunity and to what extent these tech companies are abusing their monopoly power. It is time that these companies stop arbitrarily deciding what speech is acceptable for our country and the 335 million Americans.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I am grateful for the opportunity, as I am sure we all were, to be back home for the last 2 weeks for the State work period and to talk to our constituents. Some of my conversations—and I suspect I am not alone—some of these conversations were virtual. But most of us are glad to get back to whatever the next normal is and have more and more human interaction rather than the isolation and, frankly, some of the anxiety that comes along with being kept apart. We are social animals, we

human beings, and we thrive on and we, I believe, need that kind of interaction. But so far this year, most of it has been virtual.

I did have a chance to speak to the Texas Hispanic Chamber members and the members of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber as part of their annual legislative summit. Like many of the folks who do fly-ins at least once a year, we have had to forgo that, so this was a virtual meeting. But I did get a chance to hear from many of the members and particularly their board members on the importance of our response to the pandemic and the progress they have in turn been able to make through things like the Paycheck Protection Program.

I also was able to join friends from Webb County—that is Laredo, TX—the North American Development Bank and their private partners, to announce a \$216 million investment in a new solar farm, which they are very excited about.

I was glad to be able to visit with a number of Texans in person, with all of the appropriate safety precautions we have all learned so well.

I was able to kick off National Volunteer Month at the San Antonio Food Bank with a number of incredible nonprofits and people with big hearts who are volunteering even amidst the—hopefully the waning days of this pandemic, at the food bank. I hope Texans and folks all across the country will continue to find ways to support one another by volunteering with local nonprofits this month and into the future.

I also was able to meet with venue owners and operators at Antone's in Austin, which is the live music capital of the world, on the day before applications opened for the U.S. Small Business Administration shuttered venue operators grant. This grant program was established through the Save Our Stages Act, which Senator KLOBUCHAR and I introduced and which was signed into law as part of the December relief bill. These small venues were excluded from the Paycheck Protection Program and, of course, were among the first to close and will be among the last to open. But what we did in the Save Our Stages Act will go a long way to ensure that the marquee acts at our most beloved live entertainment venues can shine bright once again, and I am eager for the funds to reach Texas venues.

Then, in Dallas, I joined my friend Congresswoman EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON to announce bipartisan legislation we are introducing in response to the deadly winter storm that hit Texas last February. This legislation will help build resilience in our electrical infrastructure throughout the country and will help ensure we are better prepared for whatever extreme weather Mother Nature sends our way.

It was great, as I said, to visit with folks in person again, and I am glad to see a gradual return to our new normal, as more and more Americans are vaccinated.

Even though the issues I was discussing throughout my State were different, one common theme that I brought up everywhere I went was to continue to encourage Texans to get vaccinated. So far, 9 million of us have received at least 1 dose of the vaccine, and 5.6 million Texans are fully vaccinated. Obviously we are not out of the woods yet, but Americans have every reason to be optimistic about the headway made in the fight against COVID-19.

BORDER SECURITY

Unfortunately, just as we are seeing progress on the pandemic, we are seeing another crisis on our border.

In February, Customs and Border Protection encountered more than 100,000 migrants along our southern border—the highest total since 2006. Last month, things continued to trend in the wrong direction. CBP encountered more than 172,000 migrants along our border, which is the highest in two decades.

Put simply, our immigration system cannot accommodate this many migrants coming at one time. We lack the personnel, the facilities, the resources, and the policies to efficiently process these migrants to make sure those with valid claims, say, for asylum are protected and to provide quality care to all of those in our custody in the meantime. That is true for adults and family units but especially for the alarming number of unaccompanied children.

In the summer of 2014, we saw a similar spike of children arriving at our border, which President Obama called a “humanitarian crisis.” It absolutely was. Between October 2013 and September 2014, more than 68,500 unaccompanied children entered the United States. We are only halfway through fiscal year 2021 and are already reaching that total, with more than 48,500 migrant children having crossed our border just in the last 6 months. Nearly 19,000 of these children came last month alone, the highest monthly total on record. Putting that in perspective, almost 19,000 children in 1 month is roughly enough to fill every seat in the AT&T Center in San Antonio, where the San Antonio Spurs play.

There are grave, cascading consequences to this flow of humanity coming across our border. It obviously impacts these children as well as the communities and organizations that care for them. And, of course, the criminal organizations that smuggle people into the country, along with illicit drugs, are getting richer in the process.

Over the last several weeks, I have spent time in these communities that are managing this crisis to learn more about the challenges they face. Last month, my friend HENRY CUELLAR, a Congressman from Laredo, TX, and I visited the Carrizo Springs Influx Care Facility, which is one of the shelters that house young boys aged 13 through 17. We heard from the men and women